

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

## MARCH 20, 2020

### INDIANA'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS SUSPEND PUBLIC SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

In a Tuesday afternoon communication from Bishop Doherty, the following directives were issued:

“In light of new information and recommendations from health officials concerning the danger of the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency to stem the spread of the virus, the five Catholic bishops of Indiana have suspended effective March 18 and until further notice all public Sunday and weekday Masses throughout the Province of Indiana, which is comprised of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Dioceses of Gary, Evansville, Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Lafayette. Of course, the Bishop’s dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass from March 13 continues until further notice. Online Masses provide opportunities for the faithful to remain connected in some way to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during this difficult time.

❖ **Bishop Doherty will continue to offer Masses at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday’s at 8am; they will be livestreamed online at:**

<https://churchoftheblessedsacrament.yourstreamlive.com/>

❖ During a time of prayer on Sunday or while viewing the Mass online, the faithful are encouraged to make an act of Spiritual Communion. This beautiful devotional practice in the Church is a real source of grace in communion with our Lord. Below is an example of a prayer for spiritual communion:

*“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”*

❖ The faithful are also encouraged to prayerfully read the readings of Sacred Scripture for the day or to pray the rosary. The goal is for our diocese

to create a virtual spiritual community that provides hope and opportunity for prayerfulness. **We will offer a nightly family rosary at 7pm as well as Friday Stations of the Cross at 6pm will be livestreamed from Church of the Blessed Sacrament.**

❖ Word on Fire, Magnificat online, and Formed are great resources as well.”

In addition to the above, Bishop Doherty also issued directives on the following:

❖ “Out of an abundance of caution, churches and chapels, including perpetual adoration chapels, should remain closed until further notice.

❖ Decisions about the celebrations during Holy Week and other liturgical items will be made in the coming days.

❖ As to the celebration of other Sacraments whenever possible, any scheduled celebrations should be postponed until further notice. This includes the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Matrimony and Confessions... Funerals should be postponed whenever possible. If a funeral is offered, it should be celebrated outside of Mass...”

As you undoubtedly have heard many times by now, the following guidelines are recommended from the CDC to help prevent the spread of germs:

- Stay home when sick. The recommended time frame is to stay home until fever free for at least 24 hours.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home/work place.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue. If one is not available, cover cough or sneeze with the inside of your elbow. Immediately dispose of used tissues.

Please pray for one another here and throughout the world as we navigate through these uncharted waters together.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!**

## PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



## PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

As I finish this edition of *The Good News Letter*, it is March 19, Feast of St. Joseph. I prayed this prayer for each of us:

Good Saint Joseph, God called you to be father and protector of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus and His holy mother, Mary. We now call on you for your fatherly protection against the Coronavirus pandemic. Pray for our loved ones, especially those most vulnerable, healthcare workers, and us so we may avoid being infected and pray for healing for all who are infected. We also call on you as patron of all workers to intercede for those who have lost their job. Ask the Lord to help them trust in His Providence and quell their anxieties. Help us also to be charitable and generous with those who are in need.  
Amen.

## JOIN BISHOP BARRON FOR DAILY MASS

In recent weeks, the coronavirus outbreak has had a profound impact on countries around the world—and, increasingly, here in the United States.

In light of measures being taken to contain the outbreak and avoid further illness, many of us may be hesitant to leave our homes. In many areas, Mass and other church services may not be available.

**It is at this exact moment that our faith is most needed.**

In an effort to continue the practice of our faith in these trying times, I would like to invite you to join us online for daily Mass. Beginning Tuesday, March 17, Word on Fire will be offering daily Mass for the foreseeable future.

**On our website [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org) there is a link on the homepage to view daily Mass with Bishop Robert Barron.**

If you cannot attend Mass or join us online, I encourage you to read the Gospels, pray with your families, and join yourself to the Eucharist—the source and summit of our Catholic faith—by making an act of spiritual communion like the one recommended by Archbishop Gomez: "I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints."

And please continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus

Peace, +Bishop Robert Barron



Can't go online, don't have a computer. You can listen to the Mass every day at 8am on *Catholic Radio Indy*. In addition to the morning Mass, a second Mass will be broadcast at 6pm each evening.



## FINANCIAL STRAINS OF SUSPENSION

Should the community and liturgical restrictions continue for an extended time, we, as with many of you, expect that we may experience financial stresses that we've not experienced before. Be assured that we are trying to do everything on our part to be good stewards of spending and conserve assets as now is not the time to turn a paper loss into a real time loss. However, as like you, our bills and expenses continue. In whatever means possible, please continue to keep your contributions up-to-date and mail them to the office both for St. Mary's or St. John's to:

**St. John's Church**  
**213 S. Spring St.**  
**Hartford City, IN 47348**

Diana will be able to distinguish which parish they belong to and appropriately deposit to that account.

We are working on online giving options through the diocese as they are working on one unified system. As soon as we have info from them, we will set that up for our parishioners.

Thank you for your efforts to continue your financial support to the church.

## WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE

Beginning next weekend, look for a condensed version of our weekly bulletin posted online at [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org). We will keep communication flowing through this avenue and, as needed, through calling chains, until we are able to join together again.



## FISH FRY CANCELLED

The Knights have decided to cancel the fish fry set for Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, to abide by the orders put out by our national, state and local authorities. It was suggested that in place of this fish fry, to support local businesses for your drive-up or carry-out meal as they continue to support their communities through this time.

Thank you to all who have supported the fish fries this year in any way.

## TRUE SOLIDARITY WITH OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Let us use this time to join our suspension and isolation in solidarity with those around the world who are persecuted daily for living their faith. Even in today's modern world, many live in fear and are imprisoned, or worse, suffer death over their Christian beliefs and faith in Jesus Christ. Or, they live where the church is suffering and therefore can't attend Mass, or they are so remotely disconnected that the means to travel to Mass are not viable.

This is unprecedented times in our lifetimes. Our ancestors may have been able to relate to these situations, but we have not experienced anything like we are experiencing now. Let us take this slow down and not grow in fear and worry, but grow in faith and reconnection to our families and neighbors.

## MESSAGE FROM K OF C CHAPLAIN

We as Catholics also know that prayer is an important expression of our trust in God and our relationship with him.

As Archbishop William E. Lori noted in his video message this week: Our response to the pandemic draws on our respect as Catholics for both faith and reason. Reason dictates that we should take the health precautions recommended by medical professionals and by science.

"At the same time," the archbishop tells us, "our faith makes clear that God is our all-powerful creator and that God is more powerful than any natural force, illness or economic setback."

Furthermore, the supreme chaplain notes that "prayer has always been for Christ and his Church the most important response in times of adversity."

I join Archbishop Lori in pointing out that the pandemic coincides with the liturgical season of Lent, which calls individuals to reconsider their relationships with God and neighbor, and "to take time for introspection and improvement of those relationships, and this seems particularly appropriate at this time."

As men [and women] of faith, let us pray — together with our families whenever possible and appropriate — joining our prayers with those of the Holy Father, the supreme chaplain and people around the world.

## “THROUGH THE CHURCH YEAR”

### *Palm Sunday, The Passion of our Lord*

“The Liturgy of The Passion of Our Lord on Palm Sunday is never just a reenactment of past historical events. Rather, in a mysterious way it makes those events present and efficacious for us. On Palm Sunday, Christ renews the power of that first Holy Week; he comes to the new Jerusalem, the Church, to make present anew his saving work. It begins a week of exceptional grace.

“Pope John Paul II expressed it, every year on this special Sunday, ‘the curtain rises once again on the definitive drama of all history—the drama of man’s redemption.’”

Our participation in the liturgical procession of palms 2,000 years later, is an act of faith in Christ by us, that we too accept Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, the Christ, sent by God the Father in his name to bring the good news of salvation to the human family and to establish the true kingdom that transcends all nations and peoples—a kingdom of truth, justice, grace, love and peace.

The “following of Christ” then means taking the road of humility, sacrifice, selfless love of others, even suffering as God may ordain—this is the “royal road of the cross,” which Jesus’ followers are invited to walk. It is the liberating road of true happiness in which one finds oneself by losing oneself.

### *Triduum, The Passover of our Lord*

**Holy Thursday** celebrates the Mass of the Lord’s Supper in the evening, commemorating the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood. Christ’s new commandment to love one another is recalled in the Washing of the Feet. That love becomes fully realized in the Eucharist and Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary.

On **Good Friday**, the Church gathers in silence to read Scripture and offer prayers for the whole world. The Veneration of the Cross takes place not simply to mourn Jesus’ suffering and death but to acknowledge that through the cross of Jesus we are led to glory.

The **Easter Vigil** is the high point of the entire Church liturgical year. The new fire is blessed and candles glow in the celebration of Christ as our light. Salvation history is proclaimed through Scriptures, climaxing in the joyous proclamation that Christ has risen. Those who have been prepared for baptism enter the Church, and all Catholics renew their baptismal promise, for this night commemorates our share in the dying and rising of Jesus. —*All Saints Press*

### *Easter, The Resurrection of our Lord*

“Our pascal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth’ (1 Cor 5:7-8). With these words St. Paul explains to one of the first Christian communities that the death and resurrection of Christ is the new Passover, the event of our salvation in his precious blood. It is therefore the central feast of the Christian Church. Moreover, we see that a continuity of the Jewish and Christian Passover is established, reflecting the truth that God has one saving plan for the whole human family, which began with Moses and the Jewish Exodus and culminated with Jesus Christ and his passing from death to life.

“At Easter above all we glorify, praise, and thank the Father for what he has done in and for Jesus Christ on this day in truly raising his human body from death. But we also remember that what has happened to Jesus’ human body has also been promised as our destiny.

“So, on this Easter day our Christian faith triumphs over the shifting, changing, and undependable barometer of our personal moods and feelings to rejoice in the power and faithfulness of God to whom we entrust our human destiny. He has acted on Jesus and he will act on us.

“A major fruit of our celebration of what God has done at Easter must be a great increase of Spirit-inspired hope and joy in us. An Easter Christian is not a person overcome by sadness, pessimism, or fear. We have been born anew ‘to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!’”

“The world around us and perhaps our own lives are filled with intractable and seemingly irresolvable problems and challenges. Yet it is precisely this that should evoke our Easter faith, hope, and joy. The risen Jesus allows us to discover the true face of God, a God-Man whose risen body bears the scars of bodily wounds he received as a result of the sinful hate and cruelty of human beings.

“Easter joy and hope do not fear or shrink from pain, suffering, and conflict. We know that they are ultimately vanquished in Christ. Easter faith gives us the courage to confront the hate, selfishness, violence, and suffering of this world and be apostles of reconciliation, love, peace, and joy.”

—*Through the Church Year, Francis D. Kelly*

**Please observe Holy Week as best you can by tuning in to programs that will lead you spiritually.**



## UNITING IN HEART - PERPETUAL PRAYER

The phrase 'Universal Call to Holiness' is stressed in the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*); it recognizes that all the People of God are "called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity" (no. 40).

This call is directed not only to priests, deacons, and consecrated religious, but to the laity as well, and should be pursued within an individual's specific vocation (marriage, dedicated single life, parent, etc.). We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do no matter where we find ourselves. Leading a holy life is one way the faithful can evangelize the world but it's important we recognize that mistakes are normal and we may falter occasionally.

"Not everything a saint says is completely faithful to the Gospel; not everything he or she does is authentic or perfect. What we need to contemplate is the totality of their life, their entire journey of growth in holiness, the reflection of Jesus Christ that emerges when we grasp their overall meaning as a person." (Apostolic Exhortation: **GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE** of the Holy Father Francis on the Call to Holiness in Today's World, March 2018)

Therefore, we too, must see our whole lives as a mission. Through prayer and petition, we must listen for God to recognize the signs he gives us. "Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world."

Only then will we come to realize "...the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens." (**GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE** of the Holy Father Francis)

The Uniting in Heart plan asks us to be one in the heart of Jesus Christ and to embrace his call for us to be his disciples. By our missionary discipleship, we can work to build up the Body of Christ, his Church, by carrying the Good News of the gospel to all people.

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana is a community faced with the reality that we are living in a culture stubbornly opposed to Christian values requiring us to adapt and adjust to this new reality. In the midst of economic and demographic changes, we must, as a community of faith, reach out and be present to meet people where they are. Therefore, the diocese and parishes are being restructured into 27 pastorates that will promote a spirit of community united around the goals of welcoming and caring as engaged evangelists.

Over the last couple years, Bishop Doherty has begun to implement a comprehensive pastoral plan to create a shared commitment across the diocese. We are **increasing our collaboration and decreasing our isolation**. We are increasing our pastors' management and leadership capacities; providing them time to focus on faith, liturgy, sacraments, and people. This allows the diocese to build the leadership capacity of the clergy and laity, while sharing the management and development of our financial, human, and physical resources.

Our Catholic institutions and services are **robust and thriving** across the diocese and our pastorate and community partnerships are growing in providing needed services and ministry, and true encounters with the person of Jesus.

Therefore, as a follow-up to Fr. Paul's announcement of a couple of weeks ago, he will be leaving St. Mary's and St. John's, as part of the new structure for the Uniting In Heart 2030 plan. He will be joining Fr. Logsdon as part of the new pastorate of Bryant, Portland, Winchester and Union City.

Coming to our pastorate of Dunkirk, Hartford City, and Gas City will be Fr. Kevin Hurley. He comes to us June 29 from Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Continuing communication from the Bishop's office will be conveyed as transition teams are formed and direction is received.

Please continue to pray for our Bishop, our priests, all of our parishes – and all of you, for all the good people across our Diocese and for Uniting in Heart 2030. For more information on how to pray a Holy Hour as suggested in last month's newsletter, visit [www.dol-in.org/UnitingInHeartPrayers](http://www.dol-in.org/UnitingInHeartPrayers).

## CALLED TO A GREATER LENT

Our Lenten journey leads us ultimately to Calvary. Our Lenten observance then should be more Christ-focused than self-focused. Lent is above all a time to open ourselves to the incredible love of God. Our penances, self-denials, and acts of conversion are all ordered to free us from all that hinders our fullest acceptance of divine love. Our Lenten observance should be an attempt to remove obstacles that keep us from accepting that love.

During this pandemic social distancing and health awareness, and as we are halfway through Lent, maybe we are being called to a greater Lent than ever before:

- to focus on **prayer**, spiritual sacraments, the saints as models during these times of trial, rosary, etc.
- to **fast** from our hectic schedules, our distractions that draw us from the importance of family time, our social misbehaviors, lack of self-control in manners and hygiene, with our food and resources by being less wasteful, etc.
- and to give/show **almsgiving** by reaching out with a phone call to a neighbor or family member who is alone and isolated, running errands for elderly, care for the sick, financially help aid those who may be on the fringes from job loss, etc.

Rather than criticize, ignore, or second-guess all we are going through and definitely rather than abandon our faith by saying churches are closed and Mass is suspended, let us take the leadership path to a greater Lent and conversion of ourselves and ... maybe others will be drawn in through our growing faith!

### REMINDER:

All healthy Catholics between 18 and 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and ages 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting is a sacrifice in which we draw closer to God by depending on him to sustain us and it is a way to remind ourselves that we need God above all things.

## CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

Our cluster parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's now has a website. Check us out at: [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org).



## FOR PARENTS TO CONTINUE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Catechesis When We Cannot Gather

What a difference two weeks make.

Two Sundays ago we were celebrating the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion with the Elect and candidates of the diocese. Today public Masses and catechetical programs are canceled, many of us are working from home, and we are all adjusting to a "new normal."

With so much on people's plates it may be tempting to wait to engage in catechesis. Where do we even begin?! But there are some simple things you can do to keep the catechetical process going.

**Focus on the faith, not programs.** The plans and goals that we set for ourselves this year no longer apply. We are literally in extraordinary circumstances. So, don't worry about making sure kids "get through the textbook" this year. Instead, focus on helping them pray, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and find ways to practice the faith off parish grounds. See this time as an opportunity to help the faithful discover new ways of praying and being Church, even as we mourn not being able to gather for liturgy and fellowship.

The following websites are offering free Catholic resources to continue religious education instructions. Especially in light of schools now being closed until May 1<sup>st</sup>, which basically ends our religious ed year, please visit these sites and make them part of your child's e-learning school time.

- <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/elesson/teaching-the-liturgical-year> This second installment of the Lent 2020 eLessons covers the Gospels from Palm Sunday until the third Sunday of Easter. Help your students be fully prepared to participate in the glory of Easter!
- [www.paracletevideostreaming.com](http://www.paracletevideostreaming.com)
- [www.ascension](http://www.ascension) videos, podcasts, etc. with Fr. Mike Schmitz & Fr. Josh Johnson both for teens (also on facebook)
- <https://dol-in.org/homecatechesis> additional listings for all ages can be found here
- [www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com)
- [www.faithathome.com](http://www.faithathome.com)



## ST. CHARLES BORROMEO VENERATION

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics have set out the relic of St. Charles Borromeo for continual veneration. St. Charles Borromeo (1538-84) was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, Italy. He was also a caring pastor who led his congregation courageously and prudently during the epidemic of 1576/77. While the many of Milan's nobility fled the city, St. Charles remained enacting procedures to slow the spread of the disease, establishing makeshift hospitals, and attending to the needs of the poor and sick. He used his personal money to cover the cost of his ministry. The saintly bishop never contracted the illness, attributing that to his fasting and prayer.

They are planning to stream one hour of Eucharistic Adoration and one hour of St. Charles Relic veneration for those who are unable to visit in person. weekday live feeds at approximately 10:00am  
God Bless, The Staff at Maria Stein Shrine

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### ANNIVERSARIES:

5 Gary & Bernadette Elkins  
10 Ryan & Megan Trissel  
23 Jacob & Diana Holsten

### BIRTHDAYS:

2 Kathleen Inman  
6 Jack Cain  
12 Genevieve Trissel  
22 Bethany Elkins  
30 Max Uggen  
30 Will Uggen

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.

## PIVOTAL PLAYERS

The Pivotal Players DVD series scheduled for Lent will be rescheduled, hopefully during the Easter season. Please call on the saints during this pandemic to strengthen us and be a model of good Christian love and mercy as we are called to do each and every day.

It's important to remember that not every saint was a superstar. In fact, most saints pass through this world unproclaimed. More anonymous saints remind us it's just about doing what God puts in front of you each day. It's about doing those things with great love, with great compassion, with great encouragement for others. --Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic

## MARCH CHALLENGE BY K OF C

**When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." (Gospel for March 29, Jn 11:33-36)**

One of the shortest verses in the Bible — "And Jesus wept." — is among the most powerful. The Son of God who became man mourns the loss of his friend. And he weeps, just as you or I would. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted," Jesus said. Here he models his own teaching. In our busy day-to-day lives, we may be in danger of skipping this beatitude. And though many of the psalms are laments, we can be good at skimming them. Instead, may we follow Jesus by praying these psalms and mourning the losses we and others have suffered.

### **MARCH CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to request a Mass for the repose of the soul of a recently deceased person. Second, I challenge you to support those who mourn by participating in the Faith in Action Christian Refugee Relief program or individually through prayer or other aid for those who have suffered persecution for their faith.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

How can we properly mourn the losses we and others have suffered in life? How does having Masses said for the deceased aid not only them, but also those still alive? With so much suffering in the world, how can we best show compassion for others? --KofC.org

## WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST

Apr. 1-Pope Francis I  
Apr. 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty  
Apr. 3-Fr. Paul Hudson, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City  
Apr. 4-Fr. Leroy Kinnaman, St. Peter, Winamac, St. Joseph Pulaski, St. Henry, Medaryville, St. Francis Salono, Francesville  
Apr. 5-Fr. Bob Klemme, retired  
Apr. 6-Fr. Peter Logsdon, St. Joseph, Winchester, and St. Mary, Union City  
Apr. 7-Fr. Gustavo Lopez, St. Boniface Lafayette  
Apr. 8-Fr. Jeffrey Martin, All Saints, Logansport  
Apr. 9-Fr. Adam Mauman, St. Charles Borromeo, Peru  
Apr. 10-Fr. Brendan Mbagwu, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Carmel  
Apr. 11-Fr. Mike McKinley, St. Maria Goretti, Westfield  
Apr. 12-Fr. Mike McKinney, St. Joseph, Rochester  
Apr. 13-Fr. Bob Moran, Immaculate Conception Portland  
Apr. 14-Fr. Tom Metzger, Our Lady of Grace Noblesville  
Apr. 15-Fr. Chris Miller, St. Mary Frankfort  
Apr. 16-Fr. Richard Miller, Tribunal Lafayette  
Apr. 17-Fr. Joseph Minuth, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette  
Apr. 18-Fr. Kyle Neterer, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette  
Apr. 19-Fr. Dave Newton, St. Elizabeth Seton, Carmel  
Apr. 20-Fr. John Nguyen, St. Theodore Guerin High School, Noblesville  
Apr. 21-Fr. Dennis O’Keeffe, St. Alphonsus Zionsville  
Apr. 22-Fr. Coady Owens, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette  
Apr. 23-Fr. Alex Paternoster, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Apr. 24-Fr. Dominic Petan, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette  
Apr. 25-Fr. Sean Pogue, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo & Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cicero  
Apr. 26-Fr. Richard Puetz, retired  
Apr. 27-Fr. David Rasner, St. Mary of the Lakes, Monticello  
Apr. 28-Fr. Christopher Roberts, St. Paul, Marion, and Holy Family, Gas City  
Apr. 29-Fr. Ted Rothrock, St. Elizabeth, Carmel  
Apr. 30-Fr. Anthony Rowland, St. John Vianney, Fishers

## HAVE FAITH IN FAMILIES

Nearly 40 years ago, Richard Foster introduced me to simplicity as an essential discipline in the spiritual life. [1] His own witness about simplicity has been exemplary, but he has also pointed me (and so many others) to additional witnesses to the simple life like Francis and Clare, Teresa of Avila, Francois Fenelon, Brother Lawrence and A.W. Tozer to name a few.

Coming alongside these influencers, I have been guided by Thomas Moore, best known as the author of *The Care of the Soul*. [2]. In the book he speaks about simplicity, but it was his later coining of a word that made an impact on me. It is the word *complexification* — essentially moving away from simplicity. Moore called it one of the major contemporary soul damagers.

With Moore’s word, along with what I had already learned about simplicity, I was given eyes to see and ears to hear it, and honestly, substantially in contrast to my own lack of it. I knew more about complexification than I did about simplicity, and in some ways that is still true.

But I have learned enough to know that simplicity is a means for learning to live in the present moment. Simplicity creates and sustains an inward disposition that de-quantifies a definition of life where “more is better” is alleged to be the truth, when it is not true. Simplicity enables us to recognize and celebrate what the saints call ordinary holiness.

Theologically, simplicity is the preference for regular moments, learning to be content with them rather than being obsessed with thinking about only “big things” and “spectacular moments” matter. Simplicity enables us to see that life is largely made up of little things and routine activities. It conditions us to find purpose and joy in them.

Practically speaking, simplicity means we do fewer things in a given period of time. But that very reduction opens the space to go deeper into our lives, paying attention to what we are actually thinking or doing rather than being preoccupied with the past or the future.

Simplification in the present moment is really about relaxing in the moment, putting the past and the future in their places so that what’s going on here and now has a better chance of getting through.

--[foryourmarriage.org](http://foryourmarriage.org)



**St. Mary Parish and  
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

PASTOR - Rev. Paul Hudson

Hartford City: 765.348.3123 Office Secretary: 765.348.3889  
Dunkirk: 765.768.1283 stmaryjohn@att.net

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hartford City, IN 47348  
Permit No. 97

**Return Service Requested**

**Lord's Day Liturgy**

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's  
10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 17, 2020**

*Editor: Diana Holsten*

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

This edition of *The Good News Letter*, like everything else in our world at present, will appear a bit different. Hopefully, you can use it as a tool for prayer, peace and calming in a frightened world, and spiritual growth of self and neighbor. You will find information and resources for:

- Sunday and daily Mass
- Veneration with St. Charles Borromeo
- Prayers—don't forget the rosary and saints
- Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving
- Radio Mass broadcast
- Religious Education for students
- Lent & Easter alternatives including Stations of the Cross
- Bulletin online at [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org)

Fr. Paul and Diana continue to be at work in the office as do Fred and Austin at St. John's and Jenny at St. Mary's on maintenance and cleaning, at least a long as travel is allowed, taking all prescribed healthcare precautions as CDC suggests. Feel free to contact us by phone if you or someone you know is in need of food, supplies or healthcare. Let us pray for one another.

*"If they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again." (1 Kgs 9:14)*



**We all have doubts. If we didn't have doubts, it would be certain. And if it's certain, it's not faith. And so, faith and doubts go together. And often great faith and great doubts go together. It's not whether or not you have doubts. It's how you deal with your doubts that matters.**

*--Matthew Kelly, Dynamic Catholic*

**GOOD NEWS...**

**PRAYER IS**

**NOT CANCELLED!**